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GEORGE McGOVERN
SOUTH DAKOTA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

August 18, 1980

ACTION

Dear Brian:

I received the attached letter from Bert Lockwood. I would appreciate it if you would give his request every possible consideration. South Korea is well on its way toward becoming another Iran. Kim Dae Jung represents a moderate civilian tendency which is in our interest to protect from military repression. Please see that every effort is made to enable Mr. Lockwood and other observers to attend Kim Dae Jung's trial.

With best personal wishes, I am

Sincerely,

George McGovern

Honorable Brian Atwood
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations
Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Enclosure

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University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio 45221

COLLEGE OF LAW

August 15, 1980

The Honorable George McGovern
Committee on Foreign Relations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McGovern:

I would like to draw attention to the fact that the South Korean Government is prohibiting outside observers representing prominent nongovernmental organizations from attending the impending trial of Mr. Kim Dae Jung, the opposition leader. Concern respecting the prospects for a fair and open trial has been heightened by the fact that the three lawyers who were to represent Mr. Kim have been arrested (and by some accounts tortured). Two of the lawyers have been released but only after they signed a statement indicating that they would not represent Mr. Kim. The third lawyer remains in prison.

The International Commission of Jurists, a prominent nongovernmental organization based in Geneva, asked me to act as an Observer for the Commission to the Kim trial. I agreed and at the suggestion of the State Department I applied for a visa with the Korean Embassy in Washington on Friday, August 8, and they denied it while I was waiting. I was informed that they had received instructions from the Home Office that morning to deny my application. It is my understanding that observers from Amnesty International also have been denied visas.

The State Department has been unsuccessful in its efforts to secure permission from the Korean Government for representatives of nongovernmental organizations. We feel it is imperative that observers from prominent nongovernmental organizations be allowed to observe the proceedings, and our concern reflects the reality that observers from governments are necessarily constrained by other considerations in making their reports.

I urge you to take this matter up with Korean Government and the State Department in an effort to secure permission for observers from nongovernmental organizations to attend the trial.

I also urge you to consider sending a member or members of the Foreign Relations Committee to attend the trial and report to the Committee, the American people, and the international community on the Kim trial. The latter suggestion seems imperative in light of the fact that nongovernmental observers will not be able to perform this task.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter. If you would like further information, I may be reached at (513) 475-4307.

Sincerely,

Bert B. Lockwood
Director, Urban Morgan Institute
for Human Rights

BBL:dr